

Comment re: WT Docket 05-235 – Elimination of the Morse Code Requirement

I am strongly opposed to elimination of the Morse Code requirement for all classes of Amateur Radio licenses.

I have been a licensed amateur radio operator since 1952 (age 10), and have been an Amateur Extra Class licensee since 1962. I also hold the First Class Commercial Radiotelegraph license with Ship Radar Endorsement. For each of these licenses, I had to study and prepare myself for examination. Learning the International Continental Morse Code was merely one aspect of becoming a competent operator. I never felt that I was being discriminated against because I had not attained full privileges. I worked to earn those privileges.

Morse Code has time and time again proven its value in communications under difficult conditions. Low power, spartan antennas, and noisy propagation conditions make CW the most efficient mode for communications. Indeed, it may be the only mode making communication possible. For this reason, proficiency in the code should always be part of Amateur Radio. Its value should not be cast aside merely because some individuals find it difficult to master.

Elimination of any requirement for knowledge of the code at all license levels does not advance excellence in Amateur Radio. It may well abrogate or severely restrict reciprocal operating agreements with governments still requiring code proficiency for full operating privileges

Code-less entry level licenses already exist. Just as increased technical knowledge is demanded of those desiring wider operating privileges, so should knowledge of the Morse Code be demanded of those desiring Amateur Extra Class operating privileges.

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